

2005 APPROVED
WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE
for the
WELFARE REFORM OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

Voting

Sen. Linda M. Lopez, Chair	Sen. Steven P. Neville
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Sen. Dianna J. Duran	Sen. James G. Taylor
Rep. Candy Spence Ezzell	Rep. Jim R. Trujillo
Rep. Daniel R. Foley	

WORK PLAN

A. The Welfare Reform Oversight Committee was created by Laws 1998, Chapter 8, Section 22 and Laws 1998, Chapter 9, Section 22. Section 2-17-3 NMSA 1978 sets forth the statutory duties of the Welfare Reform Oversight Committee:

"2-17-3. Duties.

A. ...Upon approval of the work plan and budget by the legislative council, the committee shall:

- (1) examine the statutes, constitutional provisions and rules governing welfare reform in New Mexico;
- (2) monitor and oversee the implementation of the New Mexico Works Act;
- (3) review issues related to welfare reform, including job training programs and related contracts; cash assistance; child care, transportation and other job-related services; and other issues that arise because of the devolution of the federal welfare programs to the states; and
- (4) make recommendations relating to the adoption of rules and legislation, if any are found to be necessary.

B. The committee shall regularly receive testimony from the secretaries

of human services; labor; children, youth and families; and health and the superintendent of public instruction on issues arising from the implementation of the New Mexico Works Act and shall review proposed rules, schedules and formulae before adoption."

B. The committee during the 2005 interim will:

EXAMINE:

- 1) the effectiveness of TANF in reducing the New Mexico poverty rate;
- 2) barriers to successful work placement for TANF participants;
- 3) the joint powers agreement (JPA) between the Human Services Department (HSD) and the Office of Workforce Training and Development (OWTD);
- 4) coordination of programs among state agencies providing TANF services;
- 5) drug rehabilitation and substance abuse programs as they relate to workforce training services and the effectiveness of existing state TANF programs;
- 6) the equity of funding for Navajo Nation and Pueblo of Zuni TANF clients, including an explanation of federal requirements; and
- 7) the effect of the new pre-K initiative on TANF children, including an inquiry into its effects on work programs and before- and after-school programs.

OVERSEE:

- 1) implementation of the Workforce Investment Act training programs, including the transition of oversight functions from HSD to OWTD;
- 2) implementation of programs to address hunger and increase food stability; and
- 3) implementation of programs for child-support enforcement.

REQUEST BRIEFINGS:

- 1) on the state of poverty in New Mexico today, with a panel presentation that includes representatives from the Lutheran Office of Governmental Ministry, the Center on Law and Poverty, Voices for Children and Albuquerque Interfaith;
- 2) from the Hunger Task Force;
- 3) on state agency strategic plans and performance measures; and
- 4) on national poverty legislative initiatives.

APPROVED MEETING SCHEDULE

Date

Location

June 13	Santa Fe
July 18-19	Ruidoso
Aug. 30-31	Santa Fe
Sept. 21-22	Santa Fe
Oct. 17-18	Santa Fe
Dec. 1-2	Santa Fe